

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

January 11, 2006

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

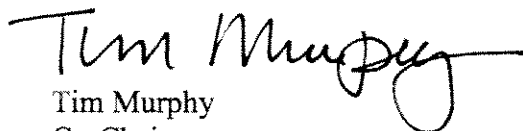
Dear Mr. President:

We congratulate your administration for continuing to lead by example in the area of health information technology (HIT). Your Fiscal Year 2006 request of \$75 million for the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONCHIT) in the Department of Health and Human Services should be commended. By providing sufficient funding to ONCHIT, the federal government will continue to foster collaboration and develop the conceptual framework and infrastructure for a nationally interoperable HIT network to interconnect clinicians, personalize care, and improve public health surveillance. We look forward to your sustained leadership to leverage 21st Century technology to lower health care costs and save lives.

Accordingly, as you prepare your Fiscal Year 2007 budget request, we strongly urge you to continue to raise the bar in supporting HIT. Despite a tight fiscal environment this year, we worked with our colleagues to ensure that the Congress appropriated \$61.7 million for HIT for Fiscal Year 2006. While this amount was \$13.3 million below your request, please be assured that we wholeheartedly share your belief that the expansion of HIT will revolutionize our nation's health care delivery system. As you know, a September 2005 RAND Corporation report stated that HIT could save the nation as much as \$162 billion in annual medical costs by improving the management of patient care, reducing medical errors, lowering death rates from chronic disease and reducing employee sick days. The RAND report also stressed the important role the federal government can have in promoting the implementation and removing current barriers to HIT.

Thank you once again for your leadership in the area of HIT. We look forward to working with you to ensure that the Congress invests in HIT in order to potentially save billions of dollars and—most importantly—countless lives.

Sincerely,



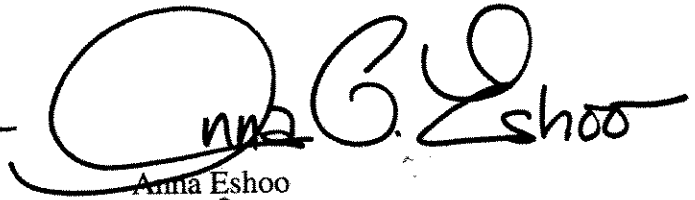
Tim Murphy
Co-Chair
21st Century Health Care Caucus



Patrick Kennedy
Co-Chair
21st Century Health Care Caucus



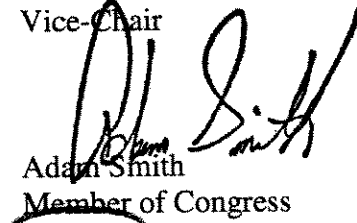
Charles Norwood
Vice-Chair



Anna Eshoo
Vice-Chair



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Sam Graves
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Charles Boustany
Member of Congress



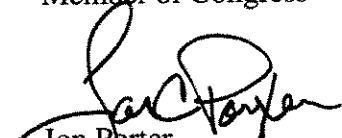
Artur Davis
Member of Congress



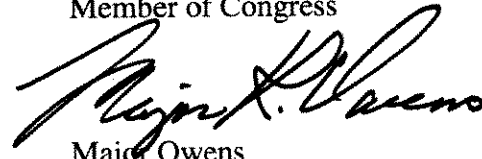
Randy Neugebauer
Member of Congress



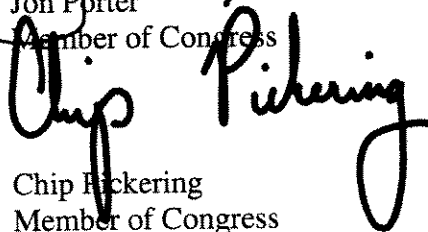
Ellen Tauscher
Member of Congress



Jon Porter
Member of Congress



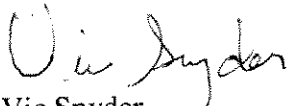
Major Owens
Member of Congress



Chip Pickering
Member of Congress



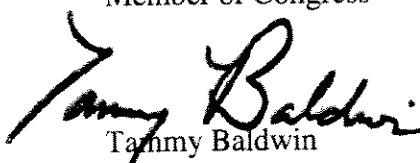
Stephanie Herseth
Member of Congress



Vic Snyder
Member of Congress



Ben Chandler
Member of Congress



Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress



David Price
Member of Congress



Melissa Bean
Member of Congress



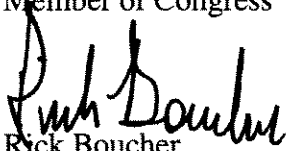
Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress



James Moran
Member of Congress



Anthony Weiner
Member of Congress



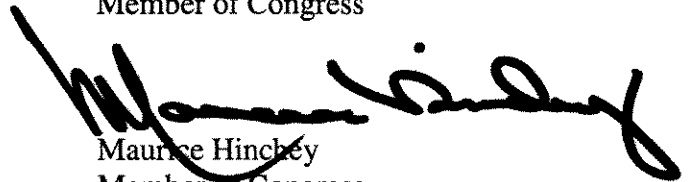
Rick Boucher
Member of Congress



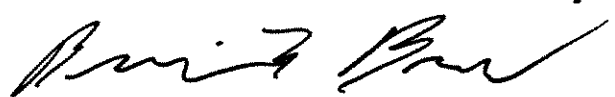
Steve Israel
Member of Congress



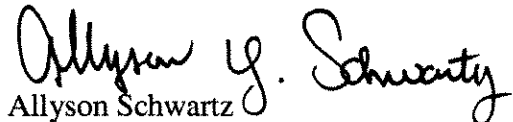
Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



Maurice Hinchey
Member of Congress



Brian Baird
Member of Congress



Allyson Schwartz
Member of Congress



Raul Grijalva
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Joshua Bolton, Director, U.S. Office of Management and Budget